



## Young Professionals

Much like the rest of the rest of the streams and division, the last 12 months has been an exciting game of two halves for us. The 2019/2020 year started off for the YPG with the idea of change at the forefront of our agenda. Nearly to spite us, the COVID pandemic made it evident that the year was going to be one where change was not only a goal, but a necessity.

First and foremost, thanks must be given to the following individuals who have represented the YPG part of the executive committee:

- Nick Stillwell - Secretary.
- Nicki Shaw- Education.
- Cassie Hardie– Social Media.
- Rob Mears– General Role
- Jono Renwick– General Role
- Mitchell Holyoake - General (CSNZ rep)

It is through their dedication to better their profession for the benefit of many that we can continue to offer our support to the members. I would also like to pass on my sincere gratitude to Jono Renwick who will be finishing his term on the committee as secretary after many years of contribution.



When we started this year, we wanted to take the feedback we were receiving as a division onboard and be the change we wanted to see in the industry. This meant being more inclusive, thinking outside the box and gaining more involvement from our members. A good start to this was the competition we ran for a YP to attend the FIG working week in Amsterdam, in collaboration with eighty4 recruitment. The aim being to go far and wide, high and low for greater involvement with a good old-fashioned Trig Station scavenger hunt. Participation in this event was higher than previous year's meeting our goal of involvement, with the data being able to be utilised by LINZ for the upkeep of the historic monuments. Sadly, COVID placed an early damper on this with the international event being cancelled. Congratulations goes out to the winner, Michael Allen, who secured the number 1 spot by spotting 83 trigs in the wild.

While COVID certainly had its pitfalls, a silver lining could be said that it presented us with the opportunity have all our study sessions for this years' exams virtually for the first time. Following feedback from last year, we wanted to create a study session process which was more inclusive of candidates who could not make the sessions in person – due to location, timing, or work commitments. Sessions were held in a similar fashion to previous years, although being held entirely online. We value the feedback received from both candidates and experts, and plan to continue to create a formalised process based on this for next year.

Continuing on the theme on limited COVID silver linings, our new-found captivity over the lockdown period presented us with the opportunity to collaborate with other streams and divisions. Partnered with the Positioning and Measurement Stream, we were able to produce a webinar aimed at graduates or those looking for a GNSS control surveys refresher, which was received to great success with over 130 viewers watching live. Many thanks to Bruce and Rochelle of the P&M stream for the content, and Tom Schrader for his contribution to share his experiences as a YP going through the examination process.

Overall, living in these unprecedented times has not been easy or without sacrifice, but opportunities can present themselves in different ways. Adaptation and resilience are often words passed around by our profession and it has been inspiring to see Survey and Spatial NZ rise to the challenge. The YPG would like to thank the wider spatial community for their support and our volunteer members that get involved. We rely heavily on your support and contribution, and we wouldn't be able to exist without it. To anyone else who would like to get involved, feel free to get in touch – we are always looking for the next generation of spatial future proofers!